GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:311
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
GUIDELINES/ASSISTANCE FOR AIDS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the spread of AIDS in the entire Asian Region;

(b) whether the WHO has issued any guidelines/assistance to the countries of the region to deal with the situation;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of AIDS in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 311 FOR 12.3.2003

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. The summary of the guidelines is annexed.

(d) The Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:-

- Preventive interventions for high-risk population through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling and behaviour change communication.

- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counselling and testing services, information education and communication (IEC) and awareness building among adolescents.

- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including interventions and public-private partnerships.

- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through surveillance, training, monitoring and evaluation, technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

ANNEXURE

WHO provides support to member countries in strengthening the monitoring and review of national AIDS control programmes. Assistance has also been provided for developing medium-term plans as well as annual work plans for the prevention and control of AIDS. To mobilize national and inter-country efforts, WHO plays a very important advocacy role by highlighting the extent and potential impact of this pandemic on Asia as well as by emphasizing the need to act now.

WHO has categorized the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia as being in the early stages. For this reason, WHO is actively promoting prevention as a major priority for national programmes. WHO support in this area includes behavioural interventions among youth and adolescents, life skill education and communication in schools, harm reduction interventions for Injecting Drug Users, interventions for safe transfusion of blood and blood products, management of sexually transmitted infections, prevention of parent-to-child transmission, ensuring safe injection practices with implementation of universal precautions in all health care settings and 100% condom promotion among known commercial sex worker situations.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi, has issued the HIV/AIDS Strateg Framework (2002-2006). The overall goal of the Regional AIDS Programme is to prevent and reduce the risk of HIV transmission and to alleviate the personal and social impact of HIV/AIDS. The main strategies and intervention areas are:

1. Prevention:

(i) prevention of transmission of HIV through blood and blood products by ensuring blood safety, prevention of HIV among injecting drug users and ensuring safe health care practices in health care settings;

(ii) prevention of sexual transmission of HIV by prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, condom promotion, harm reduction among injecting drug users and integrated support to mobile populations; and

(iii) prevention of mother-to child transmission (MTCT) by primary prevention of sexual transmission of HIV and providing antiretroviral drugs to infected pregnant women and their newborn babies

2. Care and support:

(i) promotion of Comprehensive care including continuum of care to persons with HIV/AIDS by voluntary counselling and testing, psychosocial support to infected persons, treatment of HIV/AIDS related diseases, palliative care and improving access to antiretroviral therapy; and

(ii) reduction of the personal and social impact on the infected persons by advocacy for non-discrimination and destigmatisation with involvement of all segments of society, advocacy for legal protection for individual human rights, and promotion of wide access to relevant information.

3. Strengthening National Capacity :

(i) strengthening monitoring and evaluation by HIV surveillance, surveillance for sexually transmitted infections, behavioural surveillance, programme monitoring and review through progress report; and

(ii) building national capacities by training human resources, strengthening laboratory services, promoting and supporting HIV/AIDS operational research and preparing a medium term national strategic plan.